

Workingmen's Houses,  
William H. Kelly House  
329 Southern Avenue  
Dubuque  
Dubuque County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AA

HABS  
IOWA,  
31-DUBU,  
14-AA-

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**PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver Colorado 80225

Workingmen's Houses,

## William H. Kelly House

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Site Location: 329 Southern Avenue  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.29  
Cadastral grid : SW1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.691780.4705820  
Lot dimensions : 46.6'X 153': .16 acre  
Lot description: Lot 30 of Mineral Lot 39  
Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation  
Present Usage: vacant  
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: main block: 46'x 18'; enclosed rear porch: 10'x 6'.  
Orientation : southeast  
Architectural Plan type : rectangle; 1 story.  
Description : Foundation: concrete over (assumed) stone perimeter walls.  
Structure : wood frame  
Ext. walls: aluminum siding over beveled wood siding.  
Roofs : moderately pitched front-end gable over original block, with more steeply pitched gable on rear addition; 3-tab asphalt shingle sheathing on both; shallowly pitched shed with asphalt roll roofing over rear shed addition.  
Chimneys : one concrete block interior chimney, centered on ridge.  
Dormers : none  
Windows : painted wood 1/1 double-hung throughout; one-light fixed-sash window in rear gable; plain casings and slip sills.  
Openings : single-leaf front and rear doors, slightly offset.  
Porches : (original front porch removed) small concrete stoop at front and rear doors.  
Details : plainly boxed cornices.

Construction Date : c.1885

Architecture Style: Gabled box

Physical History : The residential lot on which this house is situated was acquired from its original developers in 1880 by John H. Kelly, patriarch of the extended Kelly family, who lived in a house [HABS No. IA-159-W] down the street. In September 1884 John sold the property to his unmarried son, William H. Kelly, and it is assumed that the son built this modest one-story house on the lot soon thereafter. William transferred the house to his recently widowed

mother in January 1892, and she passed it back to him two years later. Kelly sold the property out of the family in 1900 to Nora Burke. Burke died in October 1902, bequeathing the house to her children. Typical of its modest size and limited amenities, the house has since been occupied by a series of short-term tenants. In 1986 the Iowa Department of Transportation purchased the property for demolition. Never architecturally distinguished, the building has been compromised by numerous exterior alterations, including: construction of a single-story rear addition; removal of the front porch; construction of a frame garage (1952); installation of asphalt shingles on the roof; installation of aluminum siding on the exterior walls (1982) and replacement of the chimney, among others.

**Significance:** Built as part of the extended Kelly family enclave on Southern Avenue, this historic building is an example of the workingmen's houses constructed in south Dubuque in the 1870s and 1880s.

**References:** Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.  
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-2-31.  
Dubuque City Building Permit Record: 329 Southern Avenue.  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental  
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."  
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of  
Transportation, Ames Iowa).

**Compiler:** Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.  
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